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Mr. Mlsna’s 5B Class

Rough Draft Phantom Load Notes

Due: 3-1-12

Introduction

Phantom load is what people call energy that is being used by an appliance when turned ‘off’ there are many different names that you can call this waste of energy but I am just going to refer to it a phantom load. Not very many Americans are aware of phantom loads that are occurring in their own home. There are many ways that phantom loads scam you out of your energy and money, most times with out you even knowing that little by little your money is going through the cords of almost all of your appliances that have a clock, screen, standby mode, or other things that I will tell you about latter on. In this research I will also explain some very simple, easy ways to prevent your sneaky appliances from conning you out of your electricity and money.

Prevention

* A great way to prevent energy from being used when something is not on is to just unplug it to be safe.
* If you don’t want to bother with unplugging all your household items individually you can plug multiple into one power strip and then just switch that ‘off’ that way you don’t have to unplug each item individually.
* ENERGY STAR brand appliances use only 40% of the energy as standard models.
* When battery charges are not being used or the batteries are fully charged unplug them.
* For every 7 cents you spend on electricity bills 4 of those cents are from standby power consumption.
* The U.S. spends more than 3 billion dollars in just standby energy each year

Biggest Wasters

Any appliance or item has a remote, standby mode, display screen, or clock on it is always using your energy; therefor you are using your money to run something that you thought was off. For example your TV’s are wasting your money because the little box that you point your remote at is always searching for a signal from the remote to come in. Things with a clock like stereos, microwaves, cable boxes, and anything else with a clock use your energy as well because they are always on and keeping your time up to date. Any thing that has any of those traits is always using your energy.

Awareness

Very few people know about the phantom loads are occurring in there own home. For the some that do know what is happening in their cords band that their energy is being used even when the appliance isn’t. Over all about 6% of all the energy used in America is phantom load energy. All the phantom load energy could be used, as Joseph said in our Group Topic Response Page, ‘America’s phantom load could power Greece, Peru, and Vietnam’, that is a lot of energy, billions of dollars that is being used by our country to go towards absolutely nothing, other than giving the electrical companies more of our money that they don’t need.

Conclusion

Preventing, or at least being more aware of the phantom loads through out your house and your life will benefit not only you but also the world to because by using less energy they have to burn the fossil fuels, which is definitely not the best for our environment. In the end I think that if you follow some of the easy steps to save you money and energy; use power cords, try to use brands of items that you use often that don’t use as much energy, and remember if your not sure if it has a phantom load or not just unplug the item.